

would have voted "yes." For roll call vote 524, "Reaffirming the United States commitment to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and for other purposes," I would have voted "aye."

For Friday, July 8, when I, as well, missed votes for that reason, official business, for roll call vote No. 525, I would have voted "no." For roll call vote 526, I would have voted "no." Roll call vote 527, I would have voted "no." Roll call vote 528, which interferes with the chaplain's duties in the United States military, I would have voted a resounding "no." For roll call vote 529, I would have voted "no." Roll call vote 530, I would have voted "no." And for roll call vote 533, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 515–524 on Thursday, July 7, 2011.

I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall 515–524 because I was on official business. I would like to state for the RECORD how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote 521, on agreeing to an Amendment to H.R. 2219 offered by Representative WELCH of Vermont, "An amendment to limit the use of funds to not more than \$200,000,000, provided by title IX under the heading 'Operation and Maintenance, Army,' may be available for the Commander's Emergency Response Program. Also, the amount otherwise provided under such heading is reduced by \$200,000,000," I would have voted yes.

For rollcall vote 522, on agreeing to Amendment No. 4 to H.R. 2219 offered by Representative COLE of Oklahoma, "An amendment numbered 4 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to prohibit the use of funds be used to implement any rule, regulation, or executive order regarding the disclosure of political contributions that takes effect on or after the date of enactment of the this Act," I would have voted nay.

For rollcall vote 523, on agreeing to Amendment No. 97 to H.R. 2219 offered by Representative FRANK, "An Amendment to add a section at the end of the bill which reduces the total amount of appropriations by \$8,500,000,000 not to be derived from amounts of appropriations made available by title I ("Military Personnel"), under the heading "Defense Health Program" in title VI, or by title IX ("Overseas Contingency Operations")," I would have voted aye.

For rollcall vote 524, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended in H. Res. 268, "Reaffirming the United States commitment to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and for other purposes," I would have voted aye.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 525–533 on Friday, July 8, 2011.

I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall 525–533 because I was on official business. I would like to state for the RECORD how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote 525, on agreeing to Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 2219 offered by Representative FLAKE of Arizona, "An amendment to reduce funds made available by this Act for

'Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide' by \$250,000,000," I would have voted "nay."

For rollcall vote 526, on agreeing to Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 2219 offered by Representative FLAKE of Arizona, "An amendment to reduce the amounts made available in sundry sections of title IV," I would have voted "nay."

For rollcall vote 527, on agreeing to Amendment No. 3 to H.R. 2219 offered by Representative FLAKE of Arizona, "An amendment to reduce the amounts made available in sundry sections of title IV," I would have voted "nay."

For rollcall vote 528, on agreeing to Amendment No. 77 to H.R. 2219 offered by Representative HUELSKAMP of Kansas, "An amendment numbered 77 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to prohibit the use of funds to implement the curriculum of the Chaplain Corps Tier 1 DATD repeal training dated April 11, 2011" I would have voted "nay."

For rollcall vote 529, on agreeing to an Amendment to H.R. 2219 offered by Representative POLIS of Colorado, "An amendment to prohibit use of funds in the bill to maintain an end strength level of troops in Europe to more than 30,000 and to reduce military personnel accounts accordingly" I would have voted "nay."

For rollcall vote 530, on agreeing to an Amendment to H.R. 2219 offered by Representative KUCINICH of Ohio, "An amendment to prohibit the use of funds for military operations in or against Libya except under a declaration of war against Libya pursuant to clause 11 in section 8 of article I of the Constitution" I would have voted "nay."

For rollcall vote 533, on agreeing to a resolution H. Res. 340 to "Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1309) to extend the authorization of the national flood insurance program" I would have voted "yea."

TODAY'S AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENTS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of points that I would just like to bring really to the attention of my colleagues and to indicate that I hope we can do better. That's my message: I hope we can do better.

I hope we can do better than having two Presidential candidates in the Republican Party sign a pledge that would suggest that children of slaves were much better off than the children of African American parents today. We know that we have a high number of single parents throughout the United States raising children. But just read the slave narratives and the biography of Frederick Douglass to know that there were no marriages among slaves—it was not allowed—and that children were torn away from their parents. And husbands or wives or those who had given birth or created children were torn away from each other. Slavery was a destructive part of this country, and never compare it with the life that we have today.

I would also suggest that if we are negotiating the debt ceiling, we should not have leaders in the room that make the statement that we'll have no resolution because President Barack Obama is President. I'm insulted, offended, and it is not becoming as adults.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

□ 1850

HOUSE ENERGY ACTION TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the last Congress was known as the Congress of bailouts, takeovers, taxation, and regulation. This Congress is working to be the Congress of free markets, achieving American energy independence, and job creation.

Back in May, the House passed three sweeping pieces of energy legislation designed to help end our country's dependence on Middle Eastern oil and help create American jobs by allowing deep sea energy exploration and production.

Tonight we are going to talk about American energy independence and how energy is a segue into job creation, how we can put Americans back to work. As a proud member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, we passed three I think very, very strong bills that would put America back to work, especially in the Gulf of Mexico. We passed H.R. 1229. This is the Putting the Gulf Back to Work Act. It would end the Obama administration's de facto moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico in a safe, responsible, transparent manner by setting firm timelines for considering permits to drill, which will provide certainty and allow employers and workers to get back on the job.

I don't know how many Members of Congress have been out in the Gulf of Mexico like me and looked at offshore drilling and offshore energy production. There is a difference between drilling and production. Drilling is finding the oil, drilling that well. Then they move a production platform in there to start producing that. And I talk with my colleagues from Louisiana and Mississippi and Texas that understand that the Gulf States are hurting because it's not the Big Oil companies that are out of work. It's the folks that work on those rigs out in the gulf, doing the day-to-day labor of tapping that American energy resource.

But it's also the folks back on the beach that are providing the service industry, the ones that go out and provide the food and the transportation to the workers going back and forth. It's the ships that pull the anchors when the drilling platform wants to move somewhere else. It's the pipefitters and